

**Amendments to the Specification:**

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 1, at line 20 as shown below:*

**2. Background Art**

The invention may be used in a hybrid electric vehicle of the type schematically shown in Figure 1 of co-pending application Serial No. 09/683,026, filed November 9, 2001, which issued on February 10, 2004 as USPN 6,688,411; in Figure 1 of co-pending application Serial No. 09/712,436, filed November 14, 2000, which issued on December 16, 2003 as USPN 6,664,651; as well as in co-pending applications Serial No. 10/063,345, filed April 12, 2002, now abandoned; and Serial No. 09/966,612, filed October 1, 2001, which issued on May 11, 2004 as USPN 6,735,502. Each of these co-pending applications is assigned to the Assignee of the present invention.